

Algeria and Central Asia so far as mammals are concerned *, and it is probable that we have in this southern fringe to the "Palæarctic" Region a zone corresponding with the Sonoran Region of N. America, similarly interposed between the Boreal Region and the tropical ones south of it, and perhaps once similarly distinct from those to the north and south, however it is now obscured by the migrations and other modifications induced in the west by the sinking of the Mediterranean and in the east by the rise of the Tibetan plateau. Such speculations must, however, be reserved until our knowledge of the exact distribution of the mammals of the Old World is enormously advanced and in some slight degree comparable to that which in America has enabled Dr. Merriam to make his valuable and far-reaching observations on the faunistic regions of that hemisphere.

LIV.—*Note on the Genus Goniopleura, Westwood, with the Description of a new Species.* By C. J. GAHAN, M.A.

THE genus *Goniopleura* contains some of the most striking and remarkable species among the whole of the Phytophagous Coleoptera; but, strangely enough, none of the authors who have been more especially engaged in the study of this group of beetles succeeded in discovering the true affinities of the genus. Westwood, its founder, contented himself by stating that it came near *Chrysomela*. Clark, who described the second species, referred the genus without further comment to the subfamily Galerucinae. Subsequent writers, with the single exception of Chapuis, do not seem to have questioned this position. But even Chapuis, though he recognized in the genus certain Eumolpidous characteristics, did not venture to remove it from the Galerucinae, but formed for it a special group—the *Goniopleurites*—which he placed at the end of this subfamily.

Having been recently engaged in studying the genus, I find its characters such that I have no hesitation in assigning it to the subfamily Eumolpinae, where it has a very close ally in the genus *Aulexis* of Baly. The antennae of *Goniopleura* are as widely separated at their points of insertion as in many genera of Eumolpinae, and more widely than in any genus of Galerucinae; so that I fail to appreciate Chapuis's objection to placing it in the Eumolpinae on account of the approxima-

* Witness the distribution of the genera *Meriones*, *Otonycteris*, &c.

tion of the antennæ. But, in addition to this, the shape of the legs, the structure of the pronotum, and the form of the pro- and mesosterna, together with other minor characters, all point to the Eumolpinæ as the proper position for the genus. The peculiar form of the intercoxal processes of the pro- and mesosterna, which it possesses in common with *Aulexis*, *Metaxyonycha*, and other Eumolpinæ, has never been adequately described, though it could scarcely have escaped observation. The prosternal process is rather strongly arched, and at about the middle of its length is angularly dilated on each side, with the angle fitting into a corresponding niche in the coxa; behind this point it is slightly narrowed, and then gradually widens out behind. The mesosternal process is somewhat similarly dilated between the middle of its length and the hind border. This form of the sternal processes is all the more important, inasmuch as, so far as I am aware, it nowhere occurs in the Galerucinæ.

One of the chief characters of *Aulexis* is that the epistome is emarginate in the middle of its anterior border and is furnished with a tooth on each side which overlaps the labrum. This character is even more pronounced in *Goniopleura*. In other points of structure these two genera exhibit the greatest resemblance, notwithstanding that the species of *Goniopleura* average more than twice the size of those of *Aulexis*.

Up to the present only four species of *Goniopleura* have been described; and the last of these was probably founded on female examples of the first. I have now to add to the number the following new species:—

Goniopleura bicoloripes, sp. n.

Rufo-testacea, dense punctata, griseo sat sparsim pubescens; elytris (parte quinta basali excepta) cyaneo- aut viridi-metallicis, tarsis, tibiis, genibus et antennarum articulis octo distalibus, nigris. Elytris maris setis griseo-fulvis, longissimis, erectis, sparsim hirsutis.

Long. 14–15 mm.

Hab. Java.

This species resembles *G. auricoma*, Westw., but may be easily distinguished by the narrower reddish area at the base of the elytra, and by the colour of the legs and antennæ, which in *auricoma* are entirely testaceous. In both species the males only have the elytra furnished with very long and erect pale tawny hairs; in the females the elytra have a shorter greyish pubescence. This sexual difference does not

seem to be present in *G. viridipennis*, where in both sexes the pubescence is rather short.

The following brief synopsis may help to distinguish the species of the genus:—

1. *G. auricoma*, Westw., Griffith's Cuv. An. Kingd. xv. p. 149, pl. lxxvii. fig. 3 (1832).
Reddish testaceous; with hinder two thirds of elytra metallic blue or green. *Hab.* Penang.
2. *G. bicoloripes*, sp. n.
Reddish testaceous; with hinder four fifths of elytra metallic blue or green; with tibiæ, tarsi, apices of femora, and distal eight joints of antennæ black. *Hab.* Java.
3. *G. viridipennis*, Clark, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (3) xv. p. 146 (1865).
Reddish testaceous; with elytra entirely metallic blue or green. *Hab.* Penang.
4. *G. Chapuisi*, Thoms., Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1875, p. 163.
Black; with elytra metallic blue, regularly and strongly punctured. *Hab.* Borneo.
5. *G. basalis*, Jac., Proc. Zool. Soc. 1882, p. 58.
With characters of *auricoma*, Westw. (♀). *Hab.* Sumatra.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Description of a new Species of Butterfly from Taganac Island, N.E. Borneo. By H. GROSE SMITH, B.A., F.E.S., F.Z.S., &c.

Nectaria nigriana.

Male.—*Upperside* resembles *N. leuconoë*, Erichs., but the outer third of both wings is much darker, the marginal and submarginal rows of pale greyish-white spots and irregular markings being almost obsolete, and the veins on the posterior wings, where they cross the pale area of the inner two thirds of the wings, being more widely greyish brown; both wings are less elongate and comparatively broader than in *N. leuconoë*. The underside is also darker, but the pale spots and markings are more developed than on the upperside.

The female differs from the male only in being larger and blacker.

Expanse of wings, ♂ $3\frac{7}{8}$, ♀ $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

Hab. Taganac, a small island near the north-east coast of Borneo (*Cator*).

A pair only were sent. It is an insular form of *N. leuconoë*, but the shape of the wings and its much darker general appearance render it, I think, worthy of description.